Sarah Fredrick

Dr. Grace Ward

EDU 221 CIA

Essential Belief Statement

1. The major influence that led me to selecting teaching as a profession was my 7th grade math teacher. She was extremely caring and helpful. She always cared about how her students were doing. If someone had a bad day she tried to cheer them up; she showed that she cared about everyone as more than just her students. She was one of my favorite teachers because she helped me live up to my full potential. I had frequently been bored in math classes because the material came easily to me. She was the first teacher I had that recognized that. Because she knew that I would be challenged but still successful in a higher level math class, she waived me into a higher level class for the next school year. She made me realize that I wanted to become a teacher because I wanted there to be more teachers like her in school systems.
2. I selected the content of study because I really enjoy math and also because it comes naturally to me which makes it more enjoyable. Sometimes the content challenges me and I enjoy the challenge. I also like when students understand that there is more than one way to do a problem and still get the correct answer. I want to show students that math is not just a black and white subject but that there are gray areas, meaning that you can still get the right answer and have the same understanding as everyone else even if you solve it a way that is different from what the teacher modeled. I selected the high school level because I enjoy the subjects that are taught at that level than at the middle school level.
3. My learning styles will affect the methods and approaches that I use in the classroom. I will be more likely to teach to the learning styles that I am than to the styles that I am not without realizing that part of my class isn’t learning well. The way in which I learn to teach will make me be more effective in the classroom by helping me use methods and approaches that fit students with many different learning styles.
4. My expectations are that there will be students that like me and there will be students that don’t. I also expect that it will be a lot more work than I imagine it is. I expect that students will ask why we are learning certain topics and when they will use the information outside of the classroom. One of my fears is that I will get nervous about talking in front of a group of people and that it will affect my teaching. I fear that there will be students whose interests I can’t spark. Also that there will be students who I can’t connect with and that will impact them in a negative way.
5. I expect to gain knowledge about all the work that a teacher puts in. I expect to be able to write a lesson plan with ease and without it seeming daunting. I expect to gain the ability to overcome my fears, especially to be able to connect to all of my students. I expect to gain the knowledge and ability to teach students with multiple learning styles that differ from my own.